

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for aggregating and satisfying demand for items, the method comprising the steps performed by a data processing system, of:

aggregating information reflecting demand for an item based on input requests associated with the item, each request having been received from a remote user and including remote user identification information;

providing the aggregated information to a plurality of suppliers, each capable of supplying the item without also providing remote user identification information from the requests;

receiving at least/one proposed response from at least one of the suppliers, including a proposal for providing the item to the remote user; and

providing the proposed response to the remote user based on the remote user identification information.

and

substep of:

Sugal

2. A method for aggregating and satisfying demand for travel products, the method comprising the steps performed by a data processing system, of:

aggregating information reflecting demand for a set of travel products based on input requests, each request having been received from a remote user and including remote user identification information;

selecting a group travel product based on the aggregated information; and providing information reflecting the group travel product to the remote user based on the remote user identification information.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the step of selecting a group travel product based on the aggregated information includes the substeps of:

providing the aggregated information to a plurality of travel product suppliers;

receiving responses from a set of the travel product suppliers, each response including information reflecting a proposed group travel product, wherein each proposed group travel product reflects a discount for the corresponding travel product that is determined based on the aggregated information, and wherein the step of providing information reflecting the group travel product to the remote user based on the remote user identification information includes the



transmitting travel option information related to at least one of the proposed group travel products to a set of remote users based on the aggregated information.

4. A system for aggregating and satisfying demand for items, comprising: a processor for executing programs; and

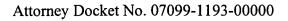
a memory for storing a program executable by the processor, the stored program including instructions for (i) aggregating information reflecting demand for an item based on input requests associated with the item, each request having been received from a remote user and including remote user identification information, (ii) providing the aggregated information to a plurality of suppliers, each capable of supplying the item without also providing remote user identification information from the requests, (iii) receiving at least one proposed response from at least one of the suppliers, including a proposal for providing the item to the remote users, and (iv) providing the proposed response to the remote users based on the remote user identification information.

5. A system for aggregating and satisfying demand for travel products, comprising:

a processor for executing program's; and

a memory for storing a program executable by the processor, the stored program including instructions for (i) aggregating information reflecting demand for a set of travel products based on input requests, each request having been received from a remote user and including remote user identification information, (ii) selecting a group travel product based on the aggregated information, and (iii) providing information reflecting the group travel product to the remote users based on the remote user identification information.

6. The system of claim 5, wherein selecting a group travel product based on the aggregated information includes (a) providing the aggregated information to a plurality of travel product suppliers, and (b) receiving responses from a set of the travel product suppliers, each response including information reflecting a proposed group travel product, wherein each proposed group travel product reflects a discount for the corresponding travel product that is determined based on the aggregated information, and wherein providing information reflecting the group travel product to the remote users based on the remote user identification information includes (a) transmitting travel option information related to at least one of the proposed group



travel products to a set of the remote users based on the aggregated information.

7. A computer readable medium containing instructions for controlling a computer system to perform a method for aggregating and satisfying demand for items, the method comprising:

aggregating information reflecting demand for an item based on input requests associated with the item, each request having been received from a remote user and including remote user identification information;

providing the aggregated information to a plurality of suppliers, each capable of supplying the item without also providing remote user identification information from the requests;

receiving at least one proposed response from at least one of the suppliers, including a proposal for providing the item to the remote users; and

providing the proposed response to the remote users based on the remote user identification information.

A computer readable medium containing instructions for controlling a computer system to perform a method for aggre/gating and satisfying demand for travel products, the method comprising:

aggregating information reflecting demand for a set of travel products based on input requests, each request having been received from a remote user and including remote user identification information;

selecting a group travel product based on the aggregated information; and providing information reflecting the group travel product to the remote users based on the remote user identification information.

9. The computer readable medium of claim 8, wherein selecting a group travel product based on the aggregated information includes:

providing the aggregated information to a plurality of travel product suppliers; and

receiving responses from a set of the travel product suppliers, each response including information reflecting a proposed group travel product, wherein each proposed group travel product reflects a discount for the corresponding travel product that is determined based/on the aggregated information, and wherein providing information reflecting the group travel product to the remote

users based on the remote user identification information includes:







transmitting travel option information related to at least one of the proposed group travel products to a set of the remote users based on the aggregated information.

10. A method for aggregating and satisfying demand for items, the method comprising the steps performed by a data processing system, of:

receiving information reflecting demand for a set of items by a plurality of users;

accessing a memory for information on a planality of suppliers and their offerings to identify suppliers having offerings capable of satisfying the demand;

generating one or more package responses, each package response reflecting offerings of at least one of the identified suppliers;

notifying each of the plurality of users of each package response using stored information identifying a location to address any package responses to each of the user.

11. The method of claim 10 further comprising:

receiving a purchase commitment from a first user of the plurality of users, including information identifying a package response selected by the first user and payment information identifying the first user's selected form of payment for the selected package response.

12. The method of claim 11, further comprising:
notifying the supplier associated with the selected package response the

Attorney Docket No. 07099-1193-00000

 $\tilde{g}_{i,k}^{A}$ 

purchase commitment.

13. A method for aggregating and satisfying demand for items, the method comprising the steps performed by a data processing system of:

receiving information reflecting demand for a set of items by a plurality of users;

providing a plurality of suppliers with a notification reflecting the demand information;

receiving one or more package responses from suppliers, each package response representing a supplier's offering intended by the supplier to satisfy the demand;

notifying each of the plurality of users of each package response using stored information identifying a location to address any package responses to each of the user.

14. The method of claim 13/ further comprising:

receiving a purchase commitment from a first user of the plurality of users, including information identifying a package response selected by the first user and payment information identifying the first user's selected form of payment for the selected package response.

15. The method of claim 14, further comprising:



Attorney Docket No. 07099-1193-00000

notifying the supplier associated with the selected package response the

purchase commitment

16. A system for aggregating and satisfying demand for items, comprising: means for receiving information reflecting demand for a set of items by a plurality of users;

means for accessing a memory for information on a plurality of suppliers and their offerings to identify suppliers having offerings capable of satisfying the demand;

means for generating one or more package responses, each package response reflecting offerings of at least one of the identified suppliers;

means for notifying each of the plurality of users of each package response using stored information identifying a location to address any package responses to each of the user.

17. The system of claim 16, further comprising:

means for receiving a purchase commitment from a first user of the plurality of users, including information identifying a package response selected by the first user and payment information identifying the first user's selected form of payment for the selected package response.

18. The system of claim 17, further comprising:

means for notifying the supplier associated with the selected package response the purchase commitment.

19. A system for aggregating and satisfying demand for items, comprising: means for receiving information reflecting demand for a set of items by a plurality of users;

means for providing a plurality of suppliers with a notification reflecting the demand information;

means for receiving one or more package responses from suppliers, each package response representing a supplier's offering intended by the supplier to satisfy the demand; and

means for notifying each of the purality of users of each package response using stored information identifying a location to address any package responses to each of the user.

20. The system of claim 19, further comprising:

means for receiving a purchase commitment from a first user of the plurality of users, including information identifying a package response selected by the first user and payment information identifying the first user's selected form of payment for the selected package response

21. The system of claim 20, further comprising:
means for notifying the supplier associated with the selected package response



Attorney Docket No. 07099-1193-00000

the purchase commitment.

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW, GARRETT, & DUNNER, L. L. P. 1300 I STREET, N. W.

LAW OFFICES

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20005 202-408-4000 22. A computer-implemented method for aggregating and satisfying demand for items using a network, comprising:

providing an interface in the network for consumer and supplier to share information concerning items;

permitting each one of a set of consumers access to the interface to provide consumer demand information reflecting demand for a set of items;

permitting a set of suppliers access to the interface to review aggregated demand information that reflects the information provided by all of the consumers in the set of consumers, each one of the suppliers in the set of suppliers being selected based on stored information reflecting each supplier's ability to satisfy the demand for the set of items;

receiving one or more package responses, each package response reflecting offerings of at least one of the selected suppliers;

norifying each of the plurality of users of each package response using stored information identifying a location to address any package responses to each of the

user